

Lamoille County Courthouse
Name of Property

Lamoille County, Vermont
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
3	0	objects
4	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

Government/Courthouse

Government/Courthouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter Categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter Categories from instructions)

Romanesque

Colonial Revival

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Slate

other Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark " x " in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark " x " in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government
Architecture

Period of Significance

1912-1945

Significant Dates

1912

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Austin, Zachary Taylor
Nichols and Parker

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other .

Name of repository:

Lamoille County Courthouse
Name of Property

Lamoille County, Vermont
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one.

UTM references

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	8	6	8	9	0	8	0	4	9	4	0	3	0	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

2

Zone			Easting					Northing						

3

Zone			Easting					Northing						

4

Zone			Easting					Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name / title Scott Gurley

organization University of Vermont, H.P. Program date May 9, 1995

street & number Wheeler House telephone 802 656-3180

city or town Burlington state Vermont zip code 05405

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Lamoille County Court (c/o Betty Jones, Side Judge)

street & number Main Street telephone (802) 888-2207

city or town Hyde Park state VT zip code 05655

Paper Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

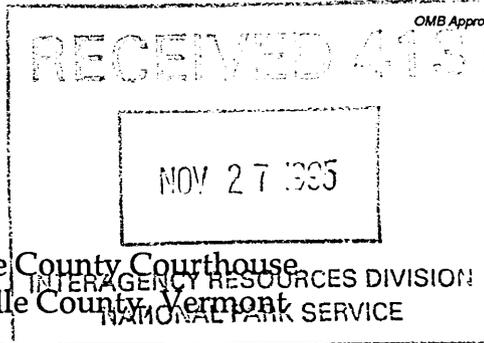
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Lamoille County, Vermont
INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Summary Paragraph

The Lamoille County Courthouse is an impressive 2 1/2 story, 5x6 bay building that sits on a large lawn in the center of Hyde Park, Vermont. The 1912 building, which features a 3 1/2 story clock tower, represents a well-preserved example of an early twentieth century courthouse. Distinctive exterior elements include a Colonial Revival style front portico, large modillion blocks along the cornice, rounded arched windows, decorative transom lights, a slate roof and an eleven foot high weathervane. The interior of the building is characterized by high ceilings, large windows, historic light fixtures and original door and window casings. The grand second floor courtroom is distinctive for its outstanding plaster work and original woodwork. The property retains its integrity of design, setting, materials and craftsmanship.

Architectural Description

The Lamoille County Courthouse in Hyde Park, Vermont, is an imposing 2 1/2 story, 5x6 bay building that blends Colonial Revival and Romanesque Revival styling. The building, which faces north, is located in the center of Hyde Park village and is set back from Main St. on a large lawn. It was constructed in 1911-1912 of dark red common bond brick and features a hipped roof with slate shingles and large wooden modillion blocks at its cornice. A 3 1/2 story hip roofed clock tower, offset from the main block, rises from the northeast corner of the front facade. The northwest corner of the front facade has similar massing but rises only two stories.

A one story, three bay wide portico shelters the main entrance and projects from the center of the front facade. The wooden portico's features include four Tuscan columns on pedestals, a lattice skirt and a balustrade with a union jack pattern. This balustrade design is repeated on the roof of the porch, where a pair of French doors open to a deck at the second story. The main entrance features a pair of replacement, half-glass doors and a pair of transom lights above them. There are two additional entries to the building - one at grade in the rear and another between the fifth and sixth bays on the west facade of the building. The rear replacement door is half-glass and is sheltered by a gable roof addition that projects several feet from the wall and is clad with corrugated metal. The side entry has a similar replacement door, but is not sheltered.

The fenestration is symmetrical and evenly spaced on the front and side facades. All of the windows on the building have splayed brick lintels except for the round-

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arched windows on the second story of these facades. The paired replacement windows on the first story have 1/1 sash and rectangular transom lights. The muntins in these transoms repeat the union jack pattern seen at the front portico balustrade. The second story paired windows are also non-historic and have 1/1 sash. These windows feature rounded transoms with radiating muntins. No windows appear at the center two bays on the first story of the east and west facades. These recessed and bricked-in bays are part of the building's original design. One small barred window is located on each side of the building at the third bay from the front facade. The second and fourth bays on the front facade have windows that are singular not paired. The fixed casement windows at the basement level of these three facades are also paired and symmetrically spaced. The fenestration at the rear facade is asymmetrical. The two windows at the corners of this facade on the first story have transom lights similar to the others on this level. The other eight windows on this facade, which are smaller and lack transom lights, articulate an interior stairway.

The roof of the main block has six hipped dormers - one at the front facade, one on each of side facades and three at the rear of the building. The roof dormers on the sides have rectangular louvered vents and slate siding. The front wall dormer has brick siding and similar louvered vents. A terra cotta panel located where the dormer breaks the roof line of the main block reads: "Lamoille County Courthouse 1836-1911." The three roof dormers at the back of the building feature 4/4 fixed casement windows. The rear center dormer is larger and has two windows, while the other two dormers each have one window. An interior brick chimney rises from the southeast corner of the rear facade. A large metal vent is located at the center of the roof just above the rear central dormer.

The tower features a steeply pitched hipped roof, an eleven foot high cast iron weathervane and an original clock. Each of the four sides of the roof has a clock face under a hipped dormer. The clock, which still functions, features a black face and gold Roman numerals. A pair of wooden louvers with rounded arches are located on each side of the third story of the tower. Modillion blocks ornament the cornices of both the tower and the dormers.

A brick water table with three courses of recessed headers has a sandstone cap. The water table sits on top of another course of cut sandstone, which is located at the ground level of the front and side facades. The building has a poured concrete foundation that is not visible from the exterior. At the rear of the building, where the grade of the surrounding landscape drops several feet, there is no water table; the brick

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bonding pattern simply continues unchanged from the wall to an asphalt lot at ground level.

An asphalt walkway that leads from the sidewalk along Main St. to the front portico is flanked by two cannons that sit atop brick foundations. On the open lawn to the east of the Courthouse sits a large boulder that acts as a monument to the early founders of the town. A plaque on the rock is dedicated to "the rugged and indomitable spirit" of John McDaniels, an early settler in the region, and to the Revolutionary War hero Capt. Jedidiah Hyde, for whom the town is named.

The interior of the building is characterized by high ceilings, large windows, intricate plaster work and original woodwork. Most windows and doors retain their original wood casings. These wide casings feature a pronounced molding with thick beads and reeds. Most of these doors have transom lights above them with the union jack muntin design used on the exterior of the building. Original wide wooden baseboards are also located on most of the walls and along the main stairway. Carpeting covers most of the interior, but a hardwood floor is exposed in part of the first floor hallway.

Three pairs of wooden columns distinguish the main entry and the beginning of this hallway that runs down the center of the first floor. The first and last pair of columns are Ionic, while the second pair are Tuscan. Offices, jury deliberation rooms and vaults are located on both sides of the hall. The walk-in vaults, which are articulated on the exterior by bricked-in window bays, both feature a heavy exterior door with a combination lock and a thin interior door with a key lock. A pair of stairways begin on both sides of the hallway just beyond the second pair of columns and wind around to meet on a second floor landing above the front door. They contain a thick wooden balustrade with a stained finish. An additional stairway is located at the end of the first floor hallway. These stairs wrap around an elevator shaft that has recently been added. The hallway is lit by replacement fluorescent lights. Historic lights, similar to those on the ceiling of the upstairs hallway, were probably originally located throughout the building. These simple fixtures have a single bulb inside a bell-shaped brass hood and are extended from the ceiling by a brass shaft.

Spanning the width of the building and occupying most of the second floor is the courtroom. Large windows and high ceilings give the room a monumental scale. Each of the six windows (three on each side of the room) are flanked by fluted plaster pilasters with Ionic capitols. Above these pilasters a wide plaster frieze and an intricate

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plaster cornice span the perimeter of the room. The cornice design features small dentils and bead-and-reel molding. Both the doors to the room and a recessed alcove behind the judge's bench are marked by pilasters similar to those around the windows. Each door is also ornamented with a plaster pediment above it. A circular shaped ceiling medallion, with a floral pattern and a hanging light fixture, is also made of plaster. All the light fixtures in the room appear historic. The judge's wood panel desk has a dark stained finish. The wooden balustrades, which divide the room into sections, have the same finish. These balustrades are similar to the ones on the main staircase. Most of the furniture in the room has been replaced, but a wooden roll-top desk and some wooden chairs and benches appear historic. The room has wall-to-wall carpeting and acoustic ceiling tiles that were probably added in the 1940s or 1950s.

A pair of small rooms used for attorneys and their clients are located at the front corners of the second floor. These rooms features wooden chairs with intricate hand-carved detail. Behind the courtroom, at the rear of the building, are bathrooms, the judge's chamber and a jury deliberation room. The window and door casings in all these rooms match those described on the first floor.

The basement of the building was converted to useable space approximately ten years ago and retains little of its historic character. It features an additional courtroom, bathrooms and a storage area. Two more historic vaults, located directly below those on the first floor, are the only historic feature on this level. They are similar to those described on the first floor, but have doors that were manufactured by a different company.

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Summary Paragraph

The Lamoille County Courthouse in Hyde Park, Vermont, is significant for its association with the legal, governmental and political history of Lamoille County. Designed by architect Z.T. Austin, the building was built in 1911-1912 after Hyde Park's great fire destroyed the original courthouse. The present Romanesque and Colonial Revival style courthouse has a monumental presence in this small village that befits its purpose and function. It is an excellent example of turn-of-the-century civic architecture and the only courthouse in the state built during this era. The interior plan of the building constitutes a fine example of courthouse design. The well-preserved grand courtroom is distinctive for its plaster detail on the ceiling and walls, its historic light fixtures and its original woodwork. This outstanding example of an early twentieth-century courthouse retains its historic character and has changed very little since it was built.

Statement of Significance

Lamoille County was the last of Vermont's fourteen counties to be organized. Located in the north-central part of the state, it was formed in 1835 from parts of neighboring counties. After much debate, Hyde Park was selected as the county seat or shire town. It was chosen, in part, because of its central location, and in part because Joshua Sawyer made a persuasive speech in favor of his village in the State Legislature. A small vernacular county courthouse and jail were subsequently constructed in 1836 in the center of the village. Following common practice, the buildings were constructed at the town's expense.

These buildings served Lamoille County throughout the nineteenth century, while Hyde Park developed steadily with the benefit of its shire town status. After the Civil War, with industrialization and the arrival of the Lamoille County Railroad, Hyde Park underwent its single greatest period of prosperity. Numerous lumber mills took advantage of the natural resources in the region, and a tannery owned by Carroll S. Page (a future Vermont governor and United States Senator) became the largest in the world.

The well-being of the town however, was dealt a devastating blow on April 17, 1910 when a great fire swept through the village. The local paper called it "the greatest conflagration ever known in Lamoille County" and reported that 18 buildings,

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including the original County Courthouse and jail, were lost in the blaze. Fortunately, the fireproof vaults containing all county records survived the fire, although it was several days before they were cool enough to open.

In the aftermath of the blaze citizens of Hyde Park formed the "Village Improvement Society" and sold shares to rebuild the courthouse and the village. However, it was not a forgone conclusion that the new courthouse would be built in Hyde Park. Their designation as the county seat was long admired by neighboring towns and although Hyde Park had grown steadily during the nineteenth century, it never developed into the population center of Lamoille County (four out of the other nine towns in the county had greater populations in 1910). Larger towns, like Morristown, felt they deserved not only the honor of shire town status, but the commerce and business associated with it. Consequently, after the fire, a group of Morristown residents lead a drive to build the new courthouse in their town. However, not unlike previous efforts in the 1850s, the group never succeeded in getting the State Legislature to change the shire town status of Hyde Park. Therefore, in the fall of 1910, \$30,000 was authorized by the State to build the new county buildings at their original location.

In 1911-1912, the present Lamoille County Courthouse was constructed. It was designed by Burlington, Vermont architect Z.T. Austin and built by contractors Nichols and Parker who were also from Burlington. Austin came from a prolific family of builders, and had experience working in Lamoille County. He was responsible for the Johnson Central School in Johnson, and possibly the Lamoille Central School (1898) in Hyde Park. Similarities between the towers on both the Courthouse and the Central School may suggest that the school was designed by Austin.

Austin's design for the new Courthouse used a combination of styles popular during the early twentieth century. The building's use of masonry materials and its rounded arched windows recall the Romanesque Revival style, while its details, like its front portico and its large modillion blocks, reflect the Colonial Revival style. Although the early twentieth century was a prolific era of courthouse construction in the United States, the new Lamoille County Courthouse was the only courthouse erected in Vermont between 1886 and 1936. Most of the other Vermont courthouses were built or remodeled in the middle of the nineteenth century. Furthermore, although the Courthouse is similar in size and massing to others in the state, it is the only one that combines the Colonial Revival and Romanesque Revival styles.

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The style and date of the Courthouse may make it distinct in Vermont, but the interior plan constitutes an outstanding example of traditional courthouse design. It features office space on the first floor and a large second story courtroom which spans the width of the building. High ceilings and large windows give the interior a monumental ambiance, while the ornate courtroom illustrates the symbolism associated with judicial architecture. Balustrades delineate both space and function in the room, while the judge's bench and the witness box are elevated and framed by a recessed alcove that gives the room a focal point. This design separates both the public and the jury from the formal proceedings of the court and gives the judge a central and symbolic position. Doorways behind the judge's bench lead to his chambers and a jury deliberation room. This traditional courtroom feature allows both the judge and jury to enter and leave the courtroom without disturbance from the public or attorneys.

The intricate plaster moldings on the walls and ceiling of the courtroom represent an outstanding example of craftsmanship. The wooden balustrades and historic light fixtures also contribute to the well-preserved historic character of the room. Most of the furniture in the room has been replaced, but some wooden chairs remain with impressive hand-carved detail.

The building has changed very little since it was constructed. Its only exterior addition has been a rear, 1x1 bay, entry porch, while the replacement of windows was done in kind in 1994. The interior of the building has had several recent changes, including the addition of an elevator and the renovation of the basement, but most of the building's historic features remain. Some of these details include wooden door and window casings, transom lights, brass light fixtures, original wood columns, wood furniture and metal vaults. Some residents believe that these are the same vaults that survived the 1910 fire, but historic photographs may contradict this information.

Unlike many courthouses in Vermont, the Lamoille County Courthouse has not changed significantly since it was built or undergone major remodeling. It remains as an outstanding and well-preserved example of turn-of-the-century civic architecture.

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Sweetser, Lorraine. Personal interviews. May, 1995.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Starting from a point on the southern side of Main Street 82 ft. northwest from the corner of Commonwealth Ave., continue in a southwesterly direction (parallel to Commonwealth Ave.) along the western border of lot number 68-1 to a point 208 ft. from Main St. At this location, turn 90 degrees and proceed northwest (parallel to Main St.) along the northern edge of a right of way for approximately 175 ft. Then turn 90 degrees again and proceed northeast between the Lamoille County Courthouse and the Lamoille County Sheriff's Headquarters for 208 ft. until arriving at the southern edge of Main St. At this location proceed southeast along the southern side of Main St. until the point of origin is reached.

Boundary Justification

The boundary selected includes the Lamoille County Courthouse and three objects on the lawn in front of the building. It is sufficient to convey the historic and architectural significance of the property.